

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Previously Presented). A codec comprising:

a digital interface including a first, second, and third pair of stereo channels;

a first pair of digital to analog converters coupled to the first pair of stereo

channels;

a second pair of digital to analog converters coupled to the second pair of stereo channels;

a pair of analog mixers each outputting a separate audio program, each of said mixers coupled to one of said first and second pairs of digital to analog converters; and

a pair of analog to digital converters coupled to the third stereo channel pair, one of said mixers also coupled to said pair of analog to digital converters.

2 (Original). The codec of claim 1 further including a Sony/Phillips digital interconnect formatter.

3 (Original). The codec of claim 1 wherein said digital interface includes a plurality of programmable ports so that the connections from the digital interface to said digital-to-analog converters may be changed.

4 (Original). The codec of claim 1 wherein said digital interface has a programmably changeable output data rate.

5 (Previously Presented). A processor-based system comprising:

a processor; and

a codec coupled to said processor, said codec including a digital interface including a plurality of stereo channel pairs, a first pair of digital analog converters coupled to only one of said stereo channel pairs, a second pair of digital-to-analog converters coupled to another one of said stereo channel pairs and a pair of analog mixers each outputting a separate audio program, each of said mixers coupled to only one of said first and second pairs of digital-to-analog converters.

6 (Original). The processor-based system of claim 5 wherein said codec further includes a pair of analog-to-digital converters coupled to another one of said stereo channel pairs, one of said mixers also coupled to said pair of analog-to-digital converters.

7 (Original). The processor-based system of claim 6 wherein said system may simultaneously play one audio program while recording another audio program.

8 (Original). The system of claim 5 wherein said system can process two separate audio programs at the same time.

9 (Original). The processor-based system of claim 5 further including a Sony/Phillips digital interconnect formatter.

10 (Original). The processor-based system of claim 5 wherein said digital interface includes a plurality of programmable ports so that the connections from the digital interface to said digital-to-analog converters may be changed.

11 (Original). The processor-based system of claim 5 wherein said digital interface has a programmably changeable output data rate.

Claims 12-16 (Canceled).

17 (Original). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

- receive at least two digital audio programs;
- convert each of said digital audio programs to an analog format;
- output each of said audio programs to a different port; and
- programmably change the assignment of said programs to said ports.

18 (Original). The article of claim 17 further storing instructions that enable said processor-based system to programmably change the data rate of at least one of said audio programs.

19 (Original). The article of claim 17 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to play one audio program while recording another audio program.

Claims 20-22 (Canceled).